

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of adhering a floor covering, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said floor covering; and
installing the floor ~~covering~~; covering,

wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, Mn, of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000 ~~;~~ ~~and wherein~~ , where said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer ~~;~~ ~~and~~ , and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler; ~~and~~

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μm , a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μm and a combination thereof; and

wherein said polymer further comprises a monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₁₀-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylamide and its N-C₁-C₄-alkyl-substituted derivative, an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a monoester of a dicarboxylic acid and an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 80 to 100% by weight in said polymer.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 90 to 99.8% by weight in said polymer.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said aqueous composition has 10 to 45% by weight of said polymer and 55 to 90% by weight of said filler.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said aqueous composition has 60 to 85% by weight of said filler.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer comprises at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate, a vinyl ester of a carboxylic acid having up to 20 carbon atoms, a vinylaromatic compound having up to 20 carbon atoms, an ethylenically unsaturated nitrile, a vinyl halide and a nonaromatic hydrocarbon having at least 2 conjugated double bonds.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 40% by weight.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 20% by weight.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0.2 to 10% by weight.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the gel content of the polymer is more than 5% and less than 20% by weight.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, where the polymer is present in the form of an aqueous dispersion with a concentration of from 40 to 75%.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, where a content of a volatile organic compound having a boiling point at 1 bar of less than 300°C is less than 0.5% by weight, based on said aqueous composition.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein a glass transition temperature of the polymer is from -50°C to +20°C.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -35 to 20°C.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -30 to 0°C.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -28 to -5°C.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the aqueous composition further comprising comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, a dispersant, a defoamer and a preservative.

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 9, wherein said floor covering is selected ~~from~~ from the group consisting of a carpet made of polyvinyl chloride, a floor covering made of polyvinyl chloride, a foam covering with a textile backing, a polyester nonwoven, a rubber covering, a textile covering with a backing of polyurethane foam, styrene-butadiene foam, or a secondary textile backing, a needlefelt floor covering, a polyolefin covering, and a linoleum covering.

Claims 29-30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A method of bonding a substrate, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said substrate; and
bonding the substrate to a ~~carrier~~; floor covering,
wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, M_n , of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000 ~~;~~ ~~and wherein~~ , where said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer ~~;~~ ~~and~~ , and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler; and

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μm , a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μm and a combination thereof; and

wherein said polymer further comprises a monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C_1 - C_{10} -hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylamide and its N- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-substituted derivative, an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a monoester of a dicarboxylic acid and an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 31, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of wood, concrete, a ceramic tile, and a metal substrate.

Claims 33-35 (Canceled)

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A method of adhering a floor covering, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said floor covering; and
installing the floor covering; covering,
wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, M_n , of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000 ; ~~and wherein~~ , where said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer ; ~~and~~ , and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler; and

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μm , a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μm and a combination thereof; and

wherein a content of a volatile organic compound having a boiling point at 1 bar of less than 300°C is less than 0.5% by weight, based on said aqueous composition.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 80 to 100% by weight in said polymer.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 90 to 99.8% by weight in said polymer.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said aqueous composition has 10 to 45% by weight of said polymer and 55 to 90% by weight of said filler.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said aqueous composition has 60 to 85% by weight of said filler.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer comprises at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate, a vinyl ester of a carboxylic acid having up to 20 carbon atoms, a vinylaromatic compound having up to 20 carbon atoms, an ethylenically unsaturated nitrile, a vinyl halide and a nonaromatic hydrocarbon having at least 2 conjugated double bonds.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer further comprises a monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₁₀-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylamide and its N-C₁-C₄-alkyl-substituted derivative, an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a monoester of a dicarboxylic acid and an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 40% by weight.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 20% by weight.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0.2 to 10% by weight.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the gel content of said polymer is more than 5% and less than 20% by weight.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, where the polymer is present in the form of an aqueous dispersion with a concentration of from 40 to 75%.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein a glass transition temperature of the polymer is from -50°C to +20°C.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -35 to 20°C.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -30 to 0°C.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -28 to -5°C.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the aqueous composition further comprising comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, a dispersant, a defoamer and a preservative.

Claim 53 (Canceled)

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 36, wherein said floor covering is selected ~~from~~ from the group consisting of a carpet made of polyvinyl chloride, a floor covering made of polyvinyl chloride, a foam covering with a textile backing, a polyester nonwoven, a rubber covering, a textile covering with a backing of polyurethane foam, styrene-butadiene foam, or a secondary textile backing, a needlefelt floor covering, a polyolefin covering, and a linoleum covering.

Claims 55-56 (Canceled)

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): A method of bonding a substrate, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said substrate; and
bonding the substrate to a ~~carrier~~; floor covering,
wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, M_n , of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000 ~~;~~ ~~and wherein~~ , where said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer ~~;~~ ~~and~~ , and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler; and

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μm , a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μm and a combination thereof; and

wherein a content of a volatile organic compound having a boiling point at 1 bar of less than 300°C is less than 0.5% by weight, based on said aqueous composition.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 57, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of wood, concrete, a ceramic tile, and a metal substrate.

Claims 59-61 (Canceled)

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends Claims 9, 26, 28, 31, 36, 42, 52, 54 and 57. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for replacing in Claims 31 and 57, at line 3, the term "carrier" with --floor covering-- is found in Claim 9 and in the specification at least at page 1, lines 26-27, and page 7, lines 26-36. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 9-14, 16-26, 28, 31-32, 36-52, 54 and 57-58 will be pending in this application. Claims 9, 31, 36 and 57 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 9-14, 16-25, 28, 36-51 and 54 are allowable over the closest prior art. Office Action at page 4, section 6.

Claims 31-32 and 57-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. To obviate the rejection, on line 3 of each of Claims 31 and 57 the term "carrier" is replaced with --floor covering--. Applicants submit that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claims 26, 31-32, 52 and 57-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. To obviate the rejection, Claims 31 and 37 are amended as discussed above by replacing "carrier" with --floor covering--, and Claims 26 and 52 are amended, as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action at page 3, section 5(a), to recite "the aqueous composition further comprises ...".

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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